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LONDON LETTER.

London, Nov. 8, 1911.

Recent decorations on the upper floor of the National Portrait Gallery have been conducted so as not to interfere with any changes that may be hereafter made in the extension of the gallery. The collections of the gallery have been formed by the Trustees, under the directorships of the late Sir George Scharf and Mr. Lionel Cust, out of an annual grant from the Treasury of £750. Although the Trustees have received many valuable loans and gifts of pictures and works of art, the annual grant has, during the fifty-five years of the gallery's existence, been supplemented only once by a gift of money, namely, in 1889, when a sum of £250 was contributed by the Committee of the Stuart Exhibition.

The following portraits, recently acquired by the Trustees, are now shown for the first time: Sir Francis Drake (1540?-1596), painted by an unknown artist, purchased October, 1911; Wenceslaus Hollar (1607-1677), engraver, painted by H. Van der Borcht (?), purchased July, 1911; John Radcliffe, M.D. (1650-1714), physician, painted by John Closterman, purchased October, 1911; Arnold Joost van Keppel, First Earl of Albemarle, K.G. (1669-1718), confidant of William III., painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller, purchased October, 1911.

Messrs. P. & D. Colnaghi & Obach are showing at their galleries, 168 New Bond Street, a representative collection of forty-seven oils by Louis Mettling. This artist was born at Dijon in 1846 and lived a quiet unassuming life in France until his death in 1904. These pictures are sincere art and have good draughtsmanship and keen color sense. They are in two distinct periods, the early work being mostly landscape, while the latter comprises head studies and interiors, mostly depicting humble peasant life. The later period is by far the more interesting, giving evidence of great intensity combined with good, although unassuming technique. It is rather surprising that this artist's work is not better known, although his output was not great and he never forced attention to his work. He is, however, represented in several continental galleries, as, for example, the Amsterdam Gallery and the Mesdag collection at The Hague.

A beautiful volume has been published, illustrating mounted Chinese porcelains, in the collection of Mr. E. M. Hodgkins, compiled by Seymour De Ricca and published in Paris by Maison Philippe Renouard. The porcelains dealt with consist of Chinese vases with gilt bronze mounts, chiselled by eighteenth-century Parisian jewellers of the Louis XV. and XVI. periods. The book contains a fine series of color prints, each duplicated in black and white and executed with true French taste. The edition is limited to two hundred copies.

In a sale of objects of art from the property of the late Dowager Lady Trevor, recently held at Messrs. Robinson and Fisher's rooms the following prices were realized: Two Vincennes vases, £260 (A. Wertheimer); two Sèvres ice-pails, £114 (Harris); a Worcester cup and saucer, £115 (Amor); an old Crown Derby dessert service, £70 (Cox); a Worcester tankard, £70 (Gregory) and a Sèvres plateau, £46 (Gregory).

Winter sales have recommenced at Messrs. Sotheby's rooms, and in a recent sale of engravings and woodcuts, the property of the late Mr. J. S. Burra, the following prices were realized: Martin Schongauer's "St. James Assisting the Christian Army," £74 (Colnaghi & Obach); A. Masson's portrait of Brisacier, £69 (Sabin); Dürer's "Virgin and Child with Monkey" (42), £51 (Gutekunst); a set of Dürer's "Small Passion," £40 (Maggs); and Dürer's "Coat of Arms with Skull" (101), £47 (Colnaghi & Obach).

In a sale of pottery and porcelain from various sources an old English wine glass, engraved with portraits of William III and

Queen Mary, fell at £32 (Kinderman); and Mr. Sabin bought an oval portrait of George Washington, with an original letter, for £20. A Carl Theodore group of children, 6½ in. high, reached £24 (Spielmann).

BENJAMIN WEST SOLD.

The Ralston Galleries, No. 567 Fifth Ave., have sold to Gen. Rush Hawkins for the Anne Mary Brown Museum of Providence an unusually fine example of Benjamin West, an oval canvas with a graceful and well-balanced composition classic group, exceptionally fine and typical in color.

OBITUARY.

Louis R. Ehrich.

The remains of Louis R. Ehrich arrived on the Minnewaska on Tuesday last from London. Mrs. Ehrich, her daughter, Mrs. Wyckoff and child, and her son, Mr. Walter Ehrich, arrived on the same steamer. On the bright late Autumn morning of Thursday, the interment took place in the Ehrich plot in the beautiful cemetery of Salem Fields-Cypress Hill, Long Island. There was a goodly assemblage of personal and business friends and a touching and appropriate address of farewell was made by Rabbi Wise. So was laid to rest a good man, a gentleman, and one universally mourned and regretted by all who had the honor and benefit of his friendship and acquaintance.

Felix Ziem.

Felix Ziem died in Paris Nov. 10, in his 91st year. He was born in 1824 at Beaume, studied in Paris, travelled in the Far East and first exhibited at the Salon of 1849. He was a prolific painter and among the most notable of his works are the "Venetian Scenes," a choice collection of which are in the Petit Palais, Paris, including "After Sunrise at Stamboul." In 1847 he received the cross of the Legion of Honor. Two of his pictures, "The Doge's Palace" and a marine painting, are in the Luxembourg, and a "View of the Quai St. Jean, Marseilles," is in the Marseilles Gallery. Many of his finest works are owned by American collectors.

John McM. Warner.

John McMurdie Warner, a Philadelphia collector, died suddenly at his home in Philadelphia, aged 53 years, last Saturday. Much of his time was devoted to travelling. In his art collection are some rare Japanese curios and a number of valuable paintings, one, a Murillo, valued at \$200,000, once owned by Jerome Bonaparte.

Edouard Andre.

The death is announced of Edouard Andre, landscape architect, whose name is connected with all the embellishments of gardens in France and Europe with the last forty years. Collaborator with Alphand, he designed numerous parks in England, Holland, Russia, Italy, Monte Carlo and Uruguay. Editor-in-chief of the "Revue Horticole," he was the author of a general treatise on parks and gardens. He died at seventy-one on his estate of La Croix (Indre-et-Loire). The deceased, who was professor of architecture at the School of Agriculture at Versailles, was an officer of the Legion of Honor.

Hans Bruhlmann.

The death is announced at Stuttgart, aged 34, of the painter, Hans Bruhlmann, pupil of Kalkreuth and Holzel, well known as a painter of the nude, landscapes and frescoes. He exhibited at the Secession of Berlin.

PARIS LETTER.

Paris, Nov. 8, 1911.

M. Georges Roux, son of one of the administrators of the Society of the Georges Petit Galleries, has sailed for New York. He will remain two or three months in America to make an exposition in Chicago, the works of the Barbizon and of living masters. Corot, Diaz, Dupre, Troyon, Rousseau will be largely represented, as well as Charley, Daubigny, Ullman and Le Sidaner.

There was opened Oct. 28, by the under Secretary of State, at the Beaux-Arts, the exposition of the group of Paris painters and engravers, formed under the presidency of MM. Roll and Georges Cain and the vice-presidency of MM. Gillot and Frank Boggs. About 150 pictures, water colors and engravings, having for subjects Paris and the Parisians, are on exhibition until Nov. 12 in two of the small rooms in the galleries of the Rue de Seze.

Among the works which attract the most attention and are the most worthy of interest are graceful female figures by M. Caro Delvaile; some remarkable gouaches which remind one of Turner, although their author, M. Louis Gillot, is very original; and two pictures by M. Frank Boggs, which suggest Jongkind. There is also a "Nocturne" and a snow effect, delicate harmonies, by M. J. W. Morrice; and two Paris bridges, one in snowy weather, by M. Abel Truchet. By M. Fougousse is a little picture: "La Bievre," with a delicate silvery effect, and by M. Bejot some agreeable drawings. Some beautiful pages from the pencil, so incisive, of M. Legrand, cannot be neglected any more than the snow and mist effects at Montmartre of M. Chenard-Huche, and the amusing fantasies of M. Marcel Clement. The landscapes of Mlle. Dujardin-Beaumetz are vague and the wrestlers of M. Chapuy ugly.

The eighth Salon of Original Etchings in Color opened Nov. 1 at the Petit Gallery, to continue to Nov. 23. The catalogue, copiously illustrated, contains 333 numbers, all works by excellent artists, of which only a small number are printed. There is this year a sensible amelioration of the "ensemble," the majority of the artists having understood that engraving in color cannot have reproduction for its unique object. It is necessary that original engraving should always preserve, even when printed in colors, the character which belongs to it.

The Persian Art Gallery of London opened an Early Mohammedan Art Exhibition Nov. 6 at the Galleries Henry Barbazanges, 109 Faubourg Saint Honoré. It consists of ceramics, enamelled glasses, gold and silver inlaid bronzes—the result of recent excavations in Central Persia—Persian and Indian drawings and illustrated MSS., sixteenth century carpets and rugs, textiles, etc. The recent notable exhibition of this gallery, from which several of the museums and principal collectors acquired specimens, will be remembered. The present one is more varied in the nature of the exhibits, but they are all of equal interest in their respective branches of art.

WOOLF LOSES SUIT.

A suit brought by Samuel Woolf, the artist, against Mrs. Philip Van Valkenburg, a reputed wealthy widow in this city, this week, to recover \$5,000, the claimed value of a portrait which the artist asserted Mrs. Van Valkenburg had ordered, and he had painted of her, and for which she refused to pay, was not decided, as the jury failed to agree. The case will probably be appealed. Last year the artist, Francis Sullivan, sued Mrs. Van Valkenburg for the value of a portrait, which he also claimed she had ordered, and then refused to take, but lost his suit.

GRAND CANON PICTURES.

Perhaps the most interesting picture exhibition of the early season will be that of eighteen oils depicting the Grand Canon of Arizona, thirteen painted by the seven prominent American artists who visited the wonder-work of Nature last spring, as was duly recorded in the *Art News* and five by three other eminent artists who had portrayed the canon on canvas in previous years—to open in the Moulton and Ricketts Galleries on Monday next Nov. 20, and to continue through Dec. 2. The different viewpoints and strangely varied treatments of the grand theme by the eminent and able artists to be shown, will profoundly interest and impress art lovers. The paintings will afterwards be shown in the larger cities of the country. The painters represented, who visited the canon last spring are Ballard Williams with two canvases, Elliot Daingerfield (3), E. D. Potthast (2), DeWitt Parshall (2), William Ritschel (2), W. R. Leigh (1), and Luis Mora (1).

The other painters to be represented will be the veteran Thomas Moran with three canvases, the late George H. McCord (1) and George Inness, Jr. (1).

PRIZES AT ROME.

The grand jury of the Art Exposition, Rome, have decided to award ten grand prizes for paintings and sculptures, eight for workers in black and white and many second prizes.

All the jurors expressed regret that the American artists were deprived of the recognition due them as is told elsewhere. It is agreed that if the American works had been judged John S. Sargent would have received a grand prize and that the black and white exhibits of Jessie Willcox Smith, Elizabeth Shippen Green and Jules Guerin and the McGlaughen and Webster exhibits of etchings were the best shown. The jurors admitted they were unequalled.

Joseph Pennell was much distressed that no prizes could go to America, but said the judging was fair.

The art collections of the late George Crocker and the furnishings of his house at I. E. 64 St., will be sold at auction in New York early in January. The collection includes Beauvais tapestries, Louis XIV, XV and XVI furniture; Oriental rugs, bronzes, Sevres and Chinese porcelains, the latter including choice examples of the Kanghsi and Chien-lung periods. Among the paintings are works of Van der Neer, Van Loo, Fortuny, Gainsborough, Lawrence, Cazin, Aubert, Diaz and Zamacois.

HUTH LIBRARY SALE.

The first days sale of the Ruth library at Sothebys last Tuesday realized some high prices. The salesroom was crowded and among the active bidders was Mr. Bernard Quaritch who bought almost the entire series of Aesop's fables at prices ranging from \$500 to \$2,000.

A unique sixteenth century manuscript, went to Quaritch for \$5,000 the top figure of the day.

Another important Quaritch purchase was the adamas Carthusiensis vellums manuscript which brought \$1,050. The French edition of Aesop's fables went to Murray for \$1,000. A black letter book by William Alexis, containing an "Argument Betwixt Man and Woman," from the poems of Wynken de Worde, believed to be from the Caldecott and Daniel collections, probably printed before 1530, sold for \$640. The total realized was \$25,275.

FENN WATERCOLOR SALE.

Some three score of watercolors by the late Harry Fenn, in his day a popular artist and illustrator but whose work is now somewhat old fashioned, were sold at the Anderson Auditorium by the Anderson Auction Co., Nov. 9, for a total of \$2,058. The highest figure obtained for any example was \$105.